of India with the Government of Russian Federation. The issue was discussed by the External Affairs Minister with the Foreign Minister of Russia Federation H.E. Sergei V. Lavrov in October 2004 during his visit to New Delhi.

(c) and (d) Discussions on the issue between the two governments are continuing.

India-Nepal discussion on mutual interest

3762. SHRI KARNENDU BHATTACHARJEE: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a)whether it is a fact that recently, India and Nepal have discussed security-related issues of mutual interest;

(b)whether any final outcome was there; and

(c)if so, the details thereof and by when the outcome is expected to be implemented?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI E. AHAMMED): (a) to (c) There is a regular dialogue between India and Nepal at various levels on issues of mutual concern and interest including security related issues. A network of institutional mechanisms comprising Home Secretary-level talks, Joint Working Group on Border Management, Bilateral Consultative Group on Security Issues and District Coordination Committees has been evolved to jointly address various security related issues including maintenance of peace and security and prevention of criminal activities in the India-Nepal border areas. The two sides have also finalised the texts of a new Extradition Treaty and an Agreement on Mutual Legal Assistance in Criminal Matters. Conclusion of these agreements will strengthen the bilateral legal framework for security cooperation.

Hosting of conference on federalism based federal system by India

†3763. SHRIMATI MAYA SINGH: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have offered to host the conference on federalism based federal system to be held in 2007/08;

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.